Oklahoma Chess Monthly

DECEMBER 2019

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Howard Zhong and Frank K. Berry

In This Issue:

- Frank Berry Remembrance
- FKB's Archives
- 2019 OKC Open
- IM Donaldson Reviews
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Editor's Note – Enjoy this Thanksgiving Remembrance of Frank Berry by Cheng Zhong, father of NM Howard Zhong. It focuses on his help to Cheng with the responsibilities of being a "Chess Dad" for a talented youngster, and gives insight into the type of 'mover and shaker' Frank was, and how he is still missed.

An Okie Chess Giant

In Memory of Frank Berry from a Chess Parent's Perspective

by Cheng Zhong

Thanksgiving is a time for remembrance and appreciation. Although Frank Berry, the Oklahoma Chess giant, has left us for more than three years, I cannot forget his role in my son Howard's chess development and many things he did for us.

Exactly eight years ago, after an excellent performance at the 2011 National K-12 Grade Championships, Howard wanted my wife Jianming and me to take him to Stillwater for an OCF tournament after Thanksgiving. Prior to that, I had never been to an OCF chess tournament or to Stillwater.

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I quickly assembled the necessary information and called Mr. Berry. As a "serious" chess parent of only a few months, I had a lot of questions for him.

Frank Berry at the 2012 OCF FIDE Fall Open

But Mr. Berry spoke only tersely with a simple answer "Just come!" I was not sure of whether we should go to the unfamiliar (and maybe even unfriendly — to *Sooners*) territory of Stillwater. Perhaps we would waste three days there and even miss the precious Black Friday!

To my surprise, when we arrived we were greeted by Mr. Berry with open arms. He specially allocated a table inside the playing hall for us so that we could relax there or stroll around to watch players' games. He assigned me a book to read -- *Chess Child: The Story of Ray Robson, America's Youngest Grandmaster*.

Realizing that Howard only had one or two chess books, he took me to the OSU bookstore to show me the books he recommended. While Howard was seriously playing each of his games, I was reading the book or marveling at the fighting spirits of players and their post-game analyses. The three-day tournament seemed to go quickly ending with Howard's spectacular performance and loads of advice from Frank, which I had to digest.

> " I would like Frank to still be remembered by those who knew him — and to be known by the new generation of youth players and their parents."

After the tournament, within a month, Frank sent me several emails:

> *"How is Howard feeling about his new books purchased in Stillwater?*
> *Is he still doing self-study on his books?" (12/13/2011)*
>
> *"If Howard continues to self-study on his books — going over games and solving problems — about 4-5 hours a week — every week — then he will certainly be over 2000 by next summer.....*
>
> *And that should be mixed with regular attendance at tourneys.*
> *I'm not recommending expensive lessons by phone / computer.*
> *Happy Holidays to you and your family!" (12/22/2011)*

In preparing the publication of the January 2012 issue of *Oklahoma Chess Quarterly*, Frank wrote to me:

> *"It's rare that a youngster can have the patience to self-study endings..!*
> *Because of his recent rapid rating jump... I may put him on my next cover.....*
> *In 11 years I've rarely put a youngster on my cover.....*
> *I have a good pic in mind..... Frank" (12/14/2011)*

Even today I am amazed that Frank had such confidence in Howard (his official rating was barely 1354 at that time) by running the 'risk' of discrediting the 28-year-old *Oklahoma Chess Quarterly.* In that issue, he and NM Tom Braunlich each annotated one of Howard's games. Their encouragement was the motivation for Howard to continue to study and play chess and our obligation to support him as chess parents in the years followed.

Venturing out to this OCF tournament marked the new phase for Howard's chess.

Howard is not the only young player Frank fostered. His tournaments always attracted many young players from other states even as far as Arizona and Tennessee not to mention states like Texas, Kansas and Arkansas. GMs Conrad Holt, Jeffery Xiong, Darwin Yang, and Ruifeng Li all frequented OCF tournaments in early stages of their chess development.

In this picture of talented youngsters at the 2014 OCF Hanken Memorial tournament, can you guess how many players are currently GM, IM, or NM? Answer below.

Since we live in Norman, when Frank learned that OU has a new chess club, he sent me an email asking me to find out about it:

> *"Have you checked this out yet?*
> *What does it look like to you?*
> *How many players do you see?*
> *How many sets, clocks do you see?"*
> *(10/5/2015)*

But, when I went to OU Chess Club the next

"Venturing out to this OCF tournament marked a new phase for Howard's chess."

day trying to find out information for him, he was there already — having driven all the way from Stillwater to Norman. He wanted to see the club activity in his own eyes. He was always interested in supporting clubs and developing new venues for rated play. He also brought OU copies of his *Oklahoma Chess Quarterly* and other pamphlets to advise the club. He commented that:

> *"What the club can do now is come up with a computer ladder rating program that allows individual matches amongst the club members. We had such a thing as OSU back in 1968-69 that had 65 students coming to the club every week to try and raise their ratings....."*
> *(10/6/2015)*

Ten days later, OU Chess Club sent a team of eight players to attend the Fall FIDE OCF Open in Stillwater.

Frank shows some magic card tricks for the kids.

With each tournament Howard attended at OCF, I became more comfortable to talk to Frank. From time to time, I received his humorous style emails, such as "*I'm a good player when I'm not under pressure.*"

Prior to a tournament, he would always send a

terse email like "*IN ... or ... OUT??*" to remind chess players to come out and play. One time, when I was out of town not accompanying with Howard, he sent me *"Cheng, How's it coming? Missed you last weekend .... Frank" (5/25/2016)*

When Howard played at out-of-state tournaments, Frank would try to find out the results and information whenever possible and communicated with me. For example:

> *"You should consider taking a 1/2 pt bye this afternoon if he [Howard] still feels bad [sick]. Maybe a good nap will perk him up....."* *(8/30/2014)*
>
> *"Congrats on draw with Patel ....."* *(5/30/2016)*

That was the last email Frank sent to me before his sudden passing on June 6 a week later. Every chess player who knew Frank felt shocked when hearing the sad news.

I attended his funeral, along with a large crowd of chess players celebrating his splendid life and reflecting his contributions to American chess in general, and Oklahoma chess in particular.

Between 2011 and 2016, Howard had attended 28 OCF-related tournaments, which provided him a golden opportunity for improvement. Oklahoma chess players are just wonderful. A lot of players have given Howard advice, encouragement, and opportunity to play. When Howard makes any progress, they are just so happy for Howard as if it is their own.

We owe everyone a big "Thank You!"

Exactly eight years have passed since I met Frank the first time. Many things have happened to Howard. Notably, three and half years later, in April 2015 he became the "first homegrown Okie master in over 25 years"; and won the *2019 USCF Scholar-Chessplayer Award.*

Currently Howard is a freshman at M.I.T. who still enjoys playing chess in spite of a demanding college workload.

In November the M.I.T. chess team participated in the 2nd Ivy League Chess Challenge in Toronto, Canada. In this invitational team tournament between top Ivy League teams Howard played on Board 3, scoring 2 wins, 3 draws, and no losses.

(More on this event below — TB)

In addition, Howard is going to play at the 2019 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship this Winter Break.

All this can be traced back to the memorable experience of meeting Frank at the 2011 OCF Thanksgiving FIDE Open!

Quiz Answer: The photo shows two future GMs (Darwing Yang and Riufeng Li), plus one IM and three NMs, (including Howard).

TOP 25

For DECEMBER 2019

	Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2551	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2362	0	
3	Howard Zhong	2293	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	-1	▲
6	Mark Hulsey	2199	-2	▼
7	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
8	Veronika Zilajeva	2091	0	
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
10	John Cope	2084	0	
11	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
12	Tom Patton	2077	0	
13	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
14	Ryan Amburgy	2063	16	▲
15	Matt Dalthorp	2062	0	▼
16	James Long	2053	6	▼
17	David Luscomb	2045	0	
18	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
20	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
21	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
22	Logan Zachare	1997	0	
23	Stephen Gehly	1958	0	
24	Joe Dean Veal	1946	-8	
25	Charles Woodall	1937	0	

Player of the Month

Dr. MARK HULSEY

He risked his 2200 rating to play in the OKC Open while consulting with the hospital on patients. He was rewarded by a slip to 2199, but will be back.

Two Okies in Toronto

Strangely, two Okie chess masters who began college this Fall in different countries met up with each other in their first college chess event: IM Advait Patel and NM Howard Zhong.

On November 8-10, the University of Toronto hosted the 2nd Ivy League Chess Challenge — a round-robin invitational competition between chess teams from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, M.I.T., and two teams from the University of Toronto.

Patel played board one for the University of Toronto "A" Team, and led them to a victory in the tournament. Second place went to Princeton, who was led by GM Andrew Tang (2507).

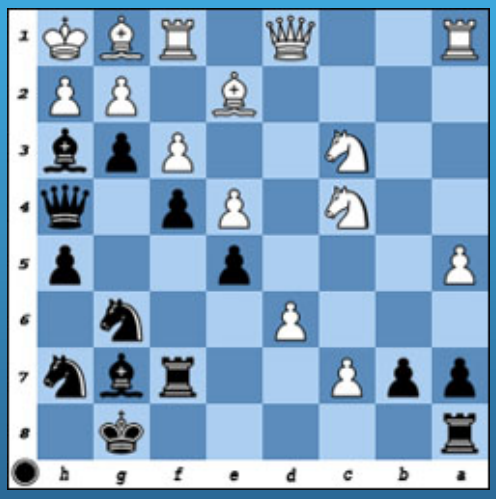
Howard Zhong played board 3 for M.I.T., which finished in 3rd place. The well-known GM Parimarjan Negi also is a PhD student at M.I.T. but was unable to attend the tournament. (Howard will hopefully have many chances to spar with Negi at the M.I.T. chess club in the coming year!)

Zhong in play on M.I.T. team, third in row on right.

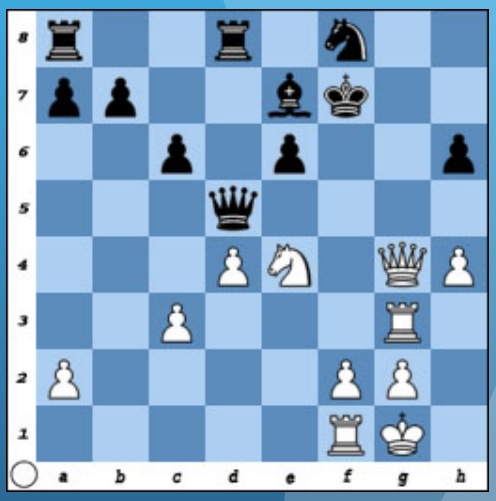
For those who don't know, the University of Toronto has for many decades enjoyed the reputation of a top chess school. When I was going to college, Toronto won the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship five times within a 10-year period (1973-1982),

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



Black to move and win. (Easy)



White to move and win. (Medium)

including being the first team to ever win it three years in a row.

Patel playing board 1 for University of Toronto

Later, starting in the 1990s when schools like the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) started actively recruiting top GMs with scholarships, they rapidly eclipsed the top amateur teams like Toronto and the University of Chicago (both of whom won a total of six titles prior to 1990).

Howard will be playing in the next one at the end of this year for M.I.T., and presumably Patel will also.

Howard Zhong playing board 3 for Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Answers to the Puzzles

Both puzzles this month are forced mates, with queen sacs not on the first move.

(1) 1…Bxg2+ 2. Kxg2 Qh3+! 3. Kxh3 (if the king goes back to h1 instead, the pawn mates) 3…Ng5+ 4. Kg2, Nh4+ 5. Kh1, g2mate.

(2) 1. Qg7+, Ke8 2. Qxe7+!! Kxe7 3. Rg7+ Ke8 (only move!) 4. Nf6 mate. A mating pattern worth remembering. Black's king has two defenders who do nothing but hinder his movements.

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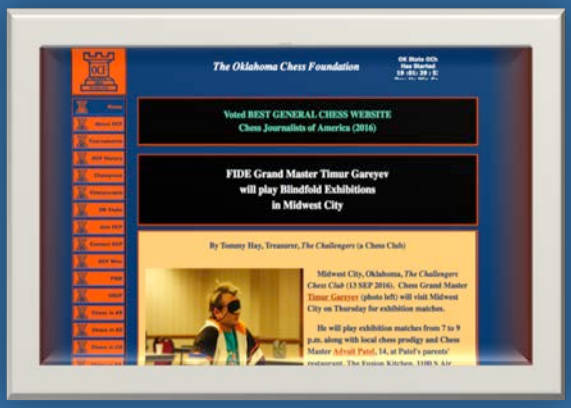
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Frank K. Berry's Chess Archive Library

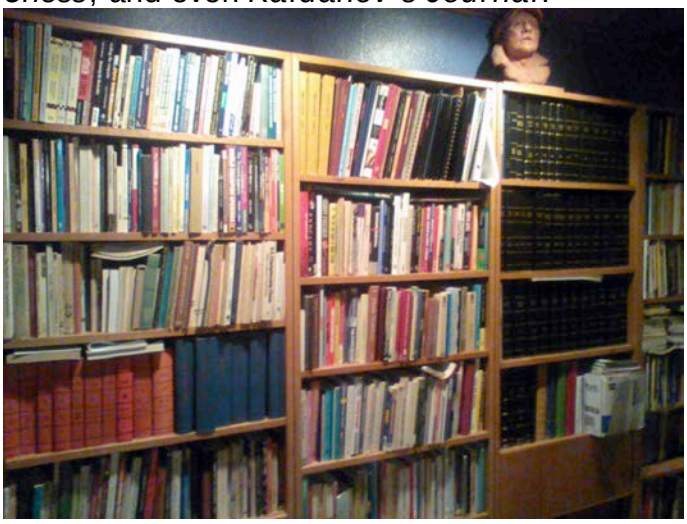
by Tom Braunlich

For a long time I've wanted to write something about the late Frank Berry's chess library, and the occasion of Cheng Zhong's tribute to Frank in this issue seemed like a good excuse to do so now, especially since until only recently has it been possible to access it at Frank's house due to the protracted dispute over his estate. But just this month Jim Berry invited me to come see it for the first time since FKB passed away, and help him create a plan for how to find a good home for it.

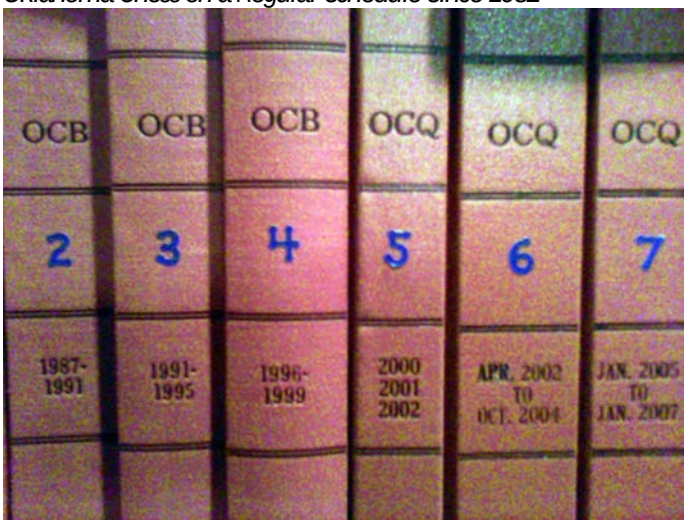
Many veteran players accumulate a big chess library over time. But Frank's approach to his library was different. Whereas most players seek new openings manuals, instruction books or game collections, Frank viewed his library as more of an *archive* — a place for research into chess's past. He was storing up a treasure. This is natural, since he was an amateur historian, and president of the Payne County Historical Society.

It occupied four tall bookshelves in his house (along with a similar amount of books on magic and history, his two other hobbies), the "archive" aspect of the collection can be seen in his treatment of chess magazines. Not only had he subscribed to many magazines over the decades, but also he (and Jim Berry) collected them and took them to a bindery every year, to have them bound into book form like what you might see on a professional library shelf.

His bound volumes of *Chess Life* going back to the 1960s, was just for starters. He had similar volumes bound for *British Chess Magazine, NEW in CHESS,* and *Chess Digest*. The collection even included many obscure and now defunct magazines that he subscribed to and bound during their runs, including *Chess Chow* and *Kingpin,* (both of which were "chess humor" magazines from the 1980-90s) *Inside Chess*, and even *Kaidanov's Journal*.



Of course he also had bound volumes of his own *Oklahoma Chess Bulletin* and *Oklahoma Chess Quarterly*, which of course are the progenitor of this magazine. As our masthead says, it was *"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"*



Some bound volumes of OCB / OCQ.

The collection also included bound volumes of the daily bulletins of chess tournaments like the famous *Lone Pine* events of the 1970s. And of course, he had many regular chess

books, including rare ones dating back to the 1800s; and autographed books, including many signed personally to him by Karpov (whom he knew well), Kasparov (whom he also knew), and many others.

Frank's personal historical research into Chess in Oklahoma also was collected and bound in several 3-ring binders. One such binder was a cache of Oklahoma tournament crosstables from 1946-1980s, collected originally by Eugene Amburn (NM Tom Amburn's father). It has lots of interesting little treasures in it, including photos of Jerry Spann and Bela Rozsa I've never seen before, as well as this very nice photo of GM Petar Trifunovic, of Yugoslavia (in Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games* book), who played in the 1962 Oklahoma Open in OKC.

GM Trifunovic at the Oklahoma Open in OKC, 1962.

Jim Berry is now looking to find a good home for the collection. Possibilities include donating the bulk of it to the Edmond Low Library at OSU, which has an excellent chess collection (best chess library in the state), or the San Francisco Mechanic's Chess Club library. Some of the normal chess books may go to scholastic teachers in the state. Any takers?

Is it just me, or does the Queen in this popular European-style chess set look like Sideshow Bob?

KERES COIN — Paul Keres, the GM from Estonia who died in 1975, is still very fondly remembered in his home country, one of their most famous citizens. His championship match with Alekhine was canceled due to the outbreak of World War 2.

The late Steve Wharry visited Estonia and brought back this 5-Kroon bill, even today official currency in Estonia, with Keres' image.

Recently for the 100th anniversary of his birth Estonia issued this nice coin worth two Euros, showing Keres at the chessboard!

The Roger Rowland — Phil Thoma Saga Continues…

New information on this "mystery story" surfaced this month.

Background: In 1993 at the Tulsa Open an unrated unknown player showed up named Phil Thoma, and won the whole tournament. He beat players rated 1650, 1890, 1920, 2120 and drew with a 2160. TD Tom Amburn strongly questioned that he was really unrated, but could never prove it. For the next 13 years Phil Thoma played in Okie events and did well, maintaining a 2100 rating and even winning the state championship twice.

Shaun Graham looked into the life of Phil Thoma, who was originally from Albany, NY. He was able to prove Thoma was actually Roger Rowland, who took the identity and moved here from the northeast in 1993.

In 2012, at the membership meeting of OCA, Shaun presented the case and made an official motion to strip Thoma/Rowland of the official state titles, which was approved and done.

Roger Rowland was last spotted on the streets of downtown Tulsa.

New Information: Recently in a collection of old crosstables by Eugene Amburn (mentioned in the article on FKB's Archives, above). A name caught my eye: Roger Rowland!

Rowland was listed as having played in the 1965 Oklahoma Junior Open, and on an Okie rating list in the year 1967 his rating was 1619.

Rowland was originally from Oklahoma!

Shaun Graham comments: "The real Phil Thoma was from Albany. Roger Rowland lived and became a master in the same area. … He left that area and moved down here and assumed Thoma's name. I spoke to two men (nicknamed K and the Bark from the Albany area) who had personally known Rowland from his time there, and they both identified him in his photo. I didn't know that he had previously been from Oklahoma, but that does probably help explain why he picked Oklahoma to come to. Another twist in the Rowland/Thoma saga!

2019 OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN

FIVE-WAY TIE FOR FIRST PLACE

by Tom Braunlich

Topping the strong field at this year's Oklahoma City Open, held November 9-10 in northern OKC, was five players with 4-1 scores from four different states:

- NM Bill Orton (2206) of Arkansas
- NM Mark Hulsey (2201) of OKC,
- Rachel Li (2180) from Texas,
- David Phillips (2010) (AR Champion), and
- Daniel Herman (2140), of Colorado.

Veteran Bill Orton was in good form and seemingly dominating the event. His draws against both Hulsey and Li could have easily both been wins. His game with Hulsey is out Game of the Month.

NM Bill Orton, Fayetteville AR

A number of sub-plots added intrigue to the Open section story. First of all, many talented young players under age 12 braved playing up into open section, these included brothers Benjamin and Joshua Li, of Stillwater, and brothers Kelvin and Maxwell Xie, of OKC. The latter two had solid performances and are now both over 1600. Kelvin scored 3-2, and is now well up on the national top 100 list for 10-year-olds.

Benjamin Li started with two sensational wins over a 1750 and a 1920. Then he was brought back to earth by NM Mark Hulsey and finished with a 2-3 score, but gained 100 points to go well over 1500.

But of course the most remarkable performance by a super-young kid was by Rachel Li, 9, of Dallas, TX. She is already rated 2180, #3 on the national top 100 list for nine-year-olds, and her play reflected that. She is very well versed in the opening, and very good tactically — which is not surprising since she is coached by her older brother, Grandmaster Riufeng Li. She scored a solid 4-1, beating me and drawing with Sara Herman (2060) and NM Bill Orton in the last round. Adding in another good result at the Houston Open two weeks later, and her rating now stands at 2199. Soon she will set the record for the youngest girl to make master in the U.S.

NM Mark Hulsey, who is a busy doctor specializing in severe cases of arthritis, did a remarkable thing in this tournament, to my mind. He wanted to play but had many charts to go over on his patients and instructions to give to the hospital. He could do that by computer, and so asked TD Bart Gibbons if he could be allowed to set up a laptop computer in a side room and work on patient charts DURING his games! It was allowed, and he did

so, occasionally away from the board for 10 minutes or more at a time. Despite this handicap he scored 3 wins and 2 draws to tie for first.

But the most remarkable aspect of this, to my mind, is that he did this while risking his 2200 rating. Mark has been a strong master for decades, rated over 2300 much of that time. But he did not have a Life Master title yet, and so his rating could go below 2200. Many masters in that situation do not want to risk their coveted master title, and either don't play at all or pick their tournaments very carefully. Hulsey didn't care, and even accepted the handicap mentioned above! In the end, he was "rewarded" by losing 2 points, going from 2201 to 2199. But of course he will be back. Rumor is he may retire in the next few years and have more time to spend on chess.

The Reserve Section for U1600s was also very hard fought, and had its own dramas.

James Yanik, a student at the University of Tulsa, was the surprise winner of the event, given his pre-tournament rating of only 816.

However, he had played the previous month in Tulsa and done well there too. His low rating is a result of playing in scholastic events up until 2008, and then laying off since then. But he had kept in shape as a player online and with his buddy Jacob Schultz.

Yanik scored 4 ½ points, with an astounding gain of 384 rating points!

Adley Bufford (1569) also had a good tournament, playing solidly, spoiled only by his loss to Yanik in round 4. It is good to see him back in good form.

Another player worth special note is an unrated player from Nigeria, Chidozie Ukonu. Playing in his first ever tournament, he finished tied with David Morgan for 3rd place, with 3½ points.

Left: Adley Bufford vs. Chidozie Ukonu.

The tournament overall had 51 players and was directed by NM Bart Gibbons, of Oklahoma City. It was Bart's first time directing an event of this size. There were no hitches except for a delay in the pairings of 20 minutes for round 3, which was not his fault. A rare glitch in the pairings program corrupted the pairing data files. To fix it, Bart (helped by Jim Berry and myself) had to delete the last round's data and re-enter it by hand, which fortunately worked.

Bart is also directing a one-day event in OKC on December 7. See *Upcoming Tournaments* page.

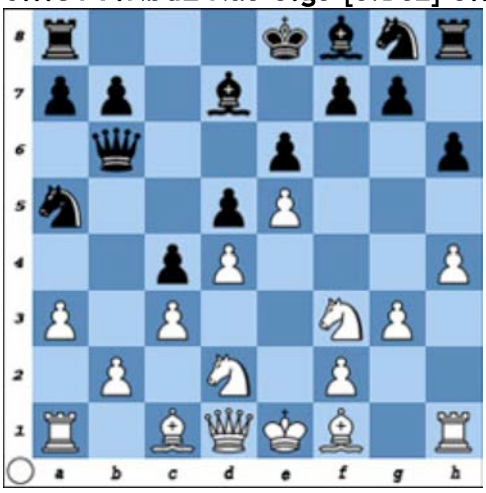
Full crosstables for the event are here:

http://www.uschess.org/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,181/

Games will be presented below and over the next few issues.

Orton, Bill (2206)
Hulsey, Mark (2201) [C02]
Oklahoma City Open OKC (4.1), 10.11.2019
[TB]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 Bill Orton has a very solid repertoire he has honed for many years and which serves him well. I know he has played this main line variation of the Advance French many times. The players quickly go down the main road. **6...c4 7.Nbd2 Na5 8.g3** [8.Be2] **8...Bd7 9.h4 h6**



I have a funny memory associated with this position. Black's main idea is to get his 'bad' bishop to a4 -- which I think he can force -- where it finds a good diagonal and hopes to get into the game via c2.

In 2003 I played in a strong international tournament on the Isle of Man, near England, and Honorary Okie IM Anna Zatonskih was there. She was wearing an Okie t-shirt Frank Berry had given her, and she was playing some GM a few boards down from me. She was black and reached this same position shown in the diagram. I took a look at it, and went back to my game. About 15 minutes later I came back, and Anna's queen bishop was no longer on d7.

Orton (left) and Hulsey playing this game.

Guess where the bishop was? ... On g8! It had gone through a4 to c2 to h7, and then when white attacked the f7 pawn after Anna castled queenside, she simply played the bishop to g8 to solidly protect that pawn. About 20 moves later it emerged, and I believe she won the game!

10.Bh3

Here a common plan for white is to continue h5/Nh4/0-0 and at some point f2-f4-f5.

10...Nb3!?

[This is a way to force ...Ba4 that has been seen before, but my database doesn't have it in this position. Instead the move that has scored well here for black is 10...Ne7 I don't know what current theory says about this line, but it seems like in most modern GM games black gives up on the ...Ba4 idea and stays flexible, often playing ...f6 or ...g6 at some moment. This seems rather inconsistent to me; why play ...Na5 then?

A recent example is: 11.h5 *(11.0-0)* 11...Nc8 12.0-0 Qc7 13.Ne1 Nb6 14.Qe2 0-0-0 15.Ng2 Be7 16.Rb1 Rdg8 17.f4?! g6! and the computer says black already has a large advantage. 18.Nf3 Kb8 19.Kh2 Nc6 20.Be3 Bd8 21.Bf2 Ne7 22.g4 gxh5 23.gxh5 Nf5 24.Rg1 Ng7 25.Nd2 f5 26.exf6 Bxf6 27.Nf1 Nc8 28.Ng3 Nd6 29.Ne3 Bh4 30.Qf3 Be8 31.Bg4 Qf7 32.Rbf1 Bxg3+ 33.Bxg3 Ngf5 34.Re1 Ne4 35.Bxf5 exf5 36.Bh4 Nd2 37.Qe2 Qxh5 38.Qxh5 Bxh5 39.Bf6 Nf3+ 40.Kh1 Nxe1 41.Bxh8 Bf3+ 42.Kh2 Rxg1 43.Kxg1 Be4 0-1 Svidler,P (2749)-Andreikin,D (2715)/Moscow 2012]

11.Nxb3 Ba4 12.Be3

[12.Nfd2 is also interesting. 12...Ne7 13.0-0 Nc6 14.Re1 Na5 looks clever for black, but white can meet it with the shocking 15.Bxe6! Qxe6 16.Nc5! but still, this is only a slight edge for white in the end.]

12...Qxb3

[12...Bxb3 13.Qe2 Ne7 looks more ambitious, but I don't know. Maybe experienced French players like to have the queens off if they can in this blocked formation. But it seems to me that white soon gets an initiative against black's f7 and e6 pawns:]

13.Qxb3 Bxb3 14.Kd2

Note Orton prevents ...Bc2.

14...Ne7 15.Ne1 Nc6 16.Ng2 Be7

[16...Kd7 17.f4 g6 18.h5 shows that black has not quite equalized.; Note that it isn't easy to just defend against white's plan of f2-f4-f5 followed by Nf4 and pressure on e6 and d5. For example: 16...Kd7 17.f4 Re8 18.f5 Nd8 19.fxe6+ fxe6 20.Nf4 threatening Nxd5, as well as moves like Ng6 or Bg4-h5.;

My computer recommends this line: 16...Ba4 17.f4 g6 18.h5 Na5 19.Raf1 Nb3+ 20.Ke2 Bd7 21.hxg6 fxg6 but that looks pretty iffy too.]

17.f4 Ba4 18.f5 Nd8

[18...Na5 19.Raf1 exf5 20.Bxf5 is not appetizing as white will be much better when he gets in e5-e6 here. But the passive defense attempt doesn't work either.]

19.Nf4! White is actually winning now as he is taking material.

19...Bd7 20.fxe6 fxe6

If black takes with a piece on e6, then the d5 pawn will fall. [20...Bxe6 21.Bg2 Nc6 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Nxe5 wins back the pawn, but lands black in a lost endgame after 24.Kc2 This would have been better than what black got in the game, however.]

21.Ng6 Rg8 22.Rhf1 Nc6 23.Bg4!

The threat of Bh5 will force the win of material.

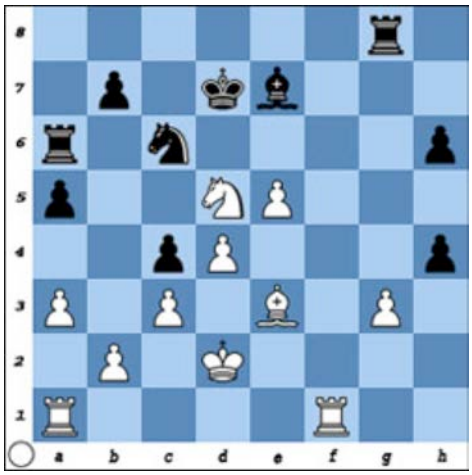
23...a5 24.Nf4 Ra6!?

[24...Nd8 25.Bh5+]

25.Bxe6 Bxe6 26.Nxe6

Black has no discovery on this N because of the threat of Nc7+.

26...Kd7 27.Nf4 g5 28.Nxd5 gxh4



The position looks totally winning for white, and it is. But as often happens, just after you win material your opponent gets a couple open lines and his pieces that were tied down now cut free. It is critical to make a few accurate moves in a row in such situations in order to make the win easy.

29.Nxe7?

[I'm giving this natural looking move a question mark for two reasons. In the remainder of the game white isn't able to win, despite being two pawns up, because of the

blockade black gets.

But stronger is to jettison one of his two extra pawns to shut down black's counterplay on the g-file immediately with 29.gxh4! Bxh4 30.Rg1! This wins quickly since black has to give way (trading rooks would be hopeless, and white then would penetrate himself down the g-file or f-file. Note that the white N on d5 is preventing the play black also gets in the game with ...Rb6.]

29...Nxe7 30.gxh4

Orton has kept his two pawns, but now you can see black gets counterplay with his two rooks on the knight files, and his own N going to blockade on d5. This makes it all difficult to untangle from for white.

30...Rb6 31.Rab1 Nd5 32.Rg1 Rxg1 33.Bxg1

Is white still winning? Let me know if you figure it out.

33...Rg6 34.Bf2 Rb6 35.Kc2 Rg6! 36.Rg1 Rxg1 37.Bxg1

In order to make progress, white has had to trade off both sets of rooks, so without them how is he supposed to lift the blockade on the two extra pawns?

37...a4 38.Kd2

[I think that 38.h5!? Nf4 39.Be3 Nxh5 40.Bxh6 Ke6 41.Kd2 Ng3 42.Bf4 Nf5 43.Bg5 Kd5 44.Ke2 Ng7 45.Kf3 Ne6 46.Bh6 might be a better try -- paradoxically trading the h-pawns might help white have more ability to maneuver on the kingside files.]

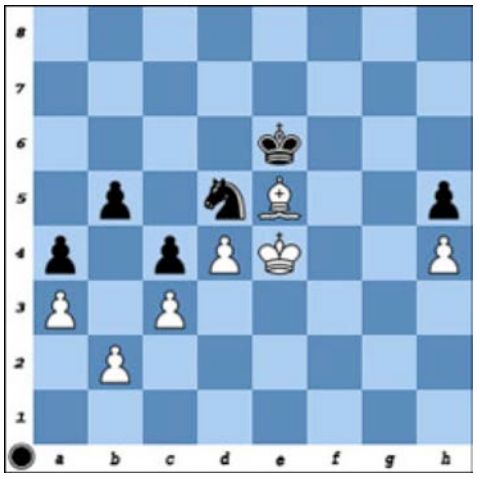
38...Ke6 39.Be3 h5 40.Bg5 Kf5 41.Ke2 b5

My computer confidently says white is winning here, giving +2.66 in all three of the first variations. That means it can't make any progress if all the lines are the same. I looked at some of its lines, and they go nowhere. The black blockade on the light squares is very strong.And note if white gets too frisky on the kingside it isn't impossible for black to have a pawn breakthrough on the queenside with a move like Nxc3 followed by b5-b4.

42.Kf3 Nc7 43.Be3 Nd5 44.Bd2 Nc7 45.Bg5 Nd5 46.e6

A good try. What else?

46...Kxe6 47.Ke4 Nc7 48.Bf4 Nd5 49.Be5



49. ... b4! 50.cxb4

[50.axb4? Nxc3+]

50...c3 51.Kd3 cxb2 52.Kc2 Nc3 53.Kxb2 Nb5 54.Bg7

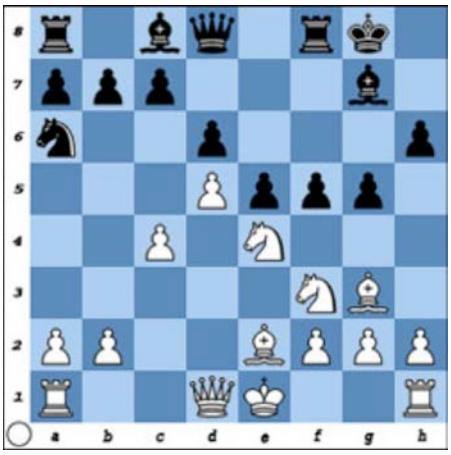
Orton gave the game up as a draw, still two pawns up!

A remarkable save by Hulsey, after just one small mistake by Orton! ½ - ½

This unique Egyptian Chess Set was recently produced. What do you think?

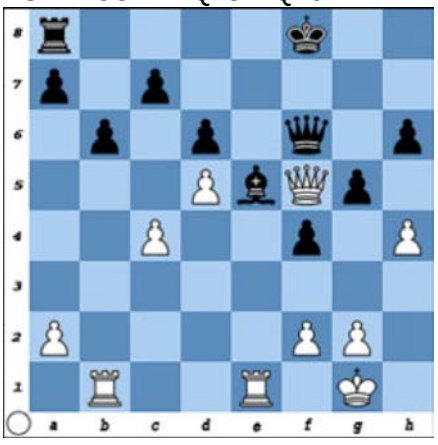
Hulsey, Mark (2201)
Herman, Sara (2060) [E92]
Oklahoma City Open (5.2), 10.11.2019
[TB]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 Sara Herman of Colorado apparently has the Fischer repertoire... we saw her play the Najdorf Poison Pawn against Rachel Li, and here the main line King's Indian. 6.Nf3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nxe4 [A combination that is often played here. Another way is 10...Nh5 11.h4 g4 12.Nd2 Nxg3 13.fxg3 h5 but white scores well here.] 11.Nxe4 f5



12.h4! [12.Nfd2 A virtual theoretical novelty here by NM Hulsey. The way the GMs have played this position is: 12...fxe4 13.Nxe4 Bf5 14.Bd3 g4!? with only a slight edge for white, as shown in many GM games.
Mark's move is more directly challenging. He will temporarily gambit the e4-pawn to get in an early disruption to black's kingside.]
12...fxe4 13.Nd2 Bf5 14.Bg4 Nc5 [14...Qd7

suggested by the computer, may be stronger, for subtle tactical reasons. An example line: 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Qe2 e3! 17.fxe3 Qc2! with good counterplay by black, whom the computer gives a slight edge.] 15.Bxf5 Rxf5 16.Qg4 Rf4!? A very interesting exchange sac. [My guess is that Black rejected the natural 16...Qd7 because then 17.Nxe4 looks strong, overlooking that then 17...Rf4! is a very nice tactical shot for black.; If 16...Qd7 white doesn't have to grab right away. But 17.0-0 is strongly met by 17...e3! ; So 16...Qd7 seems to force white to go into wild complications with 17.0-0-0!? after which it is anyone's game. For instance: 17...gxh4 18.Rxh4 Qa4!? 19.Qxf5?? Nd3+] 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.0-0 Bxb2 19.Rab1
It looks like Black has a great game with two pawns for the exchange, and a strong e4 pawn in particular. Nope. Hulsey has seen he can win the e-pawn back.
19...Bg7? [19...Qf6 was better, after which white can play 20.Nxe4! Nxe4 21.Qe2 to win the pawn back, with an unclear position.] 20.Nxe4! Nxe4 21.Qe6+ Kf8 22.Qxe4 b6 23.Rfe1 This is the position in the photo. 23...Be5 24.Qf5+ Qf6?



25.Rxe5! 1-0

Phillips, David (2020)
Orton, Bill (2206) [B41]
Oklahoma City Open (3.1), 10.11.2019
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd3 Nc6 8.Nxc6 dxc6 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.e5 Nd7 11.Bf4 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Kc7 13.0-0-0

13… b5! Orton is very experienced in this variation. This move might on the surface seem to help white by liquidating his doubled pawns, but actually it allows black to finish development, get a very active bishop and challenge the light squares. 14.Kc2 Bb7 15.h4 bxc4 16.Bxc4 Nb6 17.Be2 Nd5 18.Bc1 c5 19.Bf3 Bc6 20.Bxd5?! Bxd5 21.Kb2 Rab8+ 22.Ka1 Rb5 23.Be3 Rhb8 24.Rb1 Bxg2 25.Rxb5 Rxb5 26.Rb1 Rxb1+ 27.Kxb1 Kc6 28.Kc2 Kd5 29.Kd2 Bf3 30.Bf4 Be4 31.Be3 Bb1 32.a3 Bg6 33.Kc1 c4 34.Kd2 Ke4 35.Ke2 Bh5+ 36.Kd2 g6 37.Bd4 Bf3 38.a4 Kf5 39.Ke3 Bc6 40.a5 Kg4 41.Bc5 Kxh4 42.Be7+ Kg4 43.Kd4 Bb5 44.Ke4 h5 45.f3+ Kg3 46.Ke3 h4 0-1

Li, Rachel (2180)
Orton, Bill (2206) [B42]
Oklahoma City Open (5.1), 10.11.2019
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Ne7
I believe Orton once wrote an article on this odd-looking form of e6 Sicilian, and he knows it well.
8.c3?!
Well, I don't know what young Rachel was thinking with this move. It isn't among a dozen known moves here in the database. It blocks her own pieces.
The positive thing it does is control d4, which is a square black often is able to exploit in this line. But for that, it seems slow.
I'd say play that pawn to c4 if you are going to move it! For example: [8.c4 d6 9.Nc3 e5 10.Qe2 Nbc6 11.Be3 0-0 12.Rad1 Ng6 13.Nd5 a5 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.Qe3 a4 16.Na1 Ra5 17.Nc2 Nce7 18.Nc3 Nf4 19.g3 Nh3+ 20.Kh1 f5 21.exf5 Nxf5 22.Qe2 Ng5 23.f4 exf4 24.gxf4 Nf7 25.Rde1 Bd7 Ω-Ω Svidler,P (2727)-Rublevsky,S (2686)/Dortmund 2004]
8...Nbc6 9.N1d2 d6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Qe2 e5= 12.Bc2 Ng6 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.fxe3!?
Young Rachel continues to play creatively, here opening the f-file and controlling f4 against ...Nf4 ideas.
15...Be6 16.Rad1 Qc7 17.Qf2 Around here Rachel starts to drift, maybe because no clear attacking plan exists. 17...Rfd8 18.Nh4 Nxh4 19.Qxh4 a5! Orton starts to gain the initiative with this common ploy. 20.Qg3 Kh8 21.Nc1 a4 22.Rd2 Na5 23.Bd3 Nc4 24.Bxc4 Qxc4 25.Qf3 a3! 26.Rfd1 axb2 27.Rxb2 b5 [27...d5! is very strong, winning material I think since if 28.exd5 Bg4] 28.h3 Kg8 29.Kh2 Ra3 30.Rbd2 Qc6 31.Nb3
Black has a nearly winning advantage here, since white is tied up. But finding a breakthrough is difficult. 31...Bxb3 [31...Bf7!? idea ...Bg6] 32.axb3 Rxb3 33.Qf5 Once the tactics are unleashed Rachel does well...
33...Qe8 34.Rxd6 Rxd6 35.Rxd6 Rxc3 36.Rb6 Qc8?
[36...Rxe3 is winning, even though it looks scary for black on the back rank. But the computer confirms there is no way for white to exploit this. He cannot threaten Rc8 here. The computer gives: 37.Rb7 h5 38.Rc7 Rd3 39.Rc8 Rd8 40.Rc7 b4 41.Qf3 Rb8 42.Qg3 Qf8]

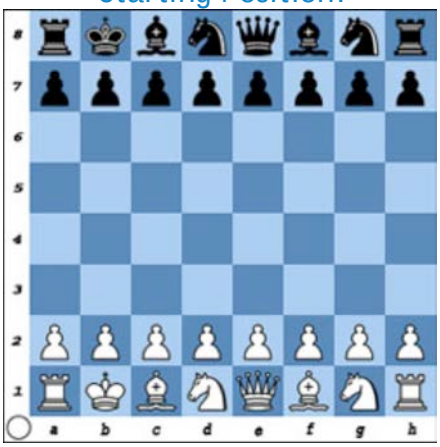
37.Qf1 Rc5 38.Qd3 Qe8 39.Qd6 Rc8 40.Qd5+ Kh8 41.Rxb5 h6 ½ - ½

FISCHER-RANDOM BARNBURNER

Wayne Hatcher sends in this Fischer-Random game played on chess.com in October.

Wayne Hatcher (1847)
Plimsol (1871)
2019.10.09
David Attenborough 960 - Round 2
(Notes by Wayne Hatcher)
This game had many moments of complex variations where there are reams of analysis, not sure if the rook sac was sound, the Q + BP ending is instructive with a cute final position.

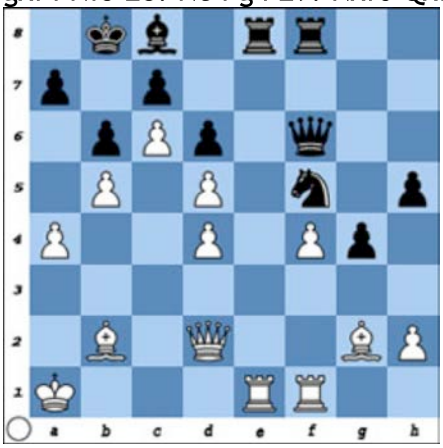
Starting Position:



1. e4 g6 2. b3 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Bb2 Nc6 5. Nge2 e5 6. g3 f5 7. Bg2 Nf6 8. O-O-O Bd7 9. Kb1 O-O-O 10. d3 Rf8 11. Rf1 Kb8 12. Nd5 xd5 13. exd5 Ne7 14. f4 Nc8

As usually happens, after about 15 moves the position starts to look normal. — TB

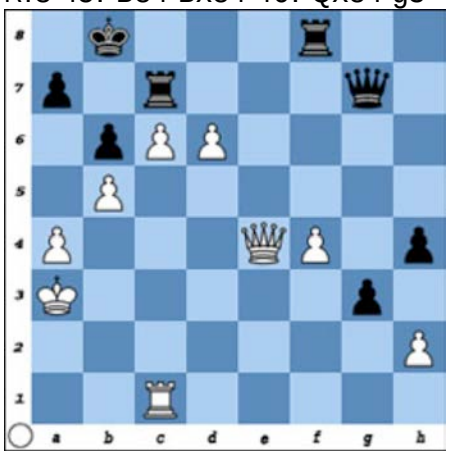
15. c4 Qe7 16. Nc3 Rde8 17. Qf2 exf4 18. Qxf4 Be5 19. Qd2 Qg7 20. d4 Bf6 21. c5 Ne7 22. b4 g5 23. b5 f4 24. c6 Bf5+ 25. Ka1 b6 26. a4 Bc8 27. gxf4 Nf5 28. Ne4 g4 29. Nxf6 Qxf6 30. Rde1 h5



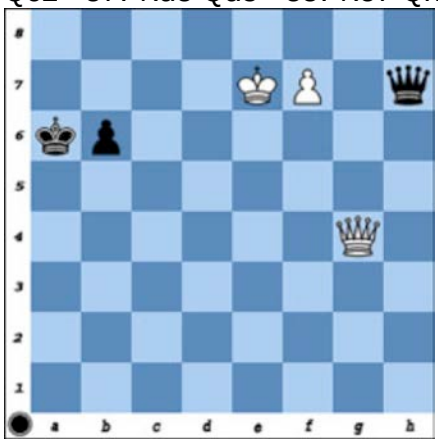
31. Re5 !?

An interesting rook sac to get Space Invaders pawns.

31...dxe5 32. dxe5 Qd8 33. Ba3 Rg8 34. d6 Be6 35. Rd1 h4 36. dxc7+ Qxc7 37. Bd6 Nxd6 38. exd6 Qg7+ 39. Kb1 Bf5+ 40. Ka2 Qf7+ 41. Kb2 Qg7+ 42. Ka3 Rc8 43. Rc1 Rc7 44. Qd5 Rf8 45. Be4 Bxe4 46. Qxe4 g3



47. d7! (Threatening mate with Qe8+) Rd8 48. Qe8 Qf8+ 49. Qxf8 Rxf8 50. hxg3 hxg3 (White's initiative continues into the endgame although a rook down.)
51. Re1 Rd8 52. Re3 a6 53. Re8 Rcxd7 54. cxd7 Kc7 55. Rxd8 Kxd8 56. bxa6 g2 57. a7 g1=Q 58. a8=Q+ Kxd7 59. Qd5+ Kc7 60. Qe5+ Kb7 61. f5 Qc1+ 62. Kb3 Qb1+ 63. Kc4 Qa2+ 64. Kd3 Qb3+ 65. Ke2 Qxa4 66. Qe7+ Ka6 67. f6 Qg4+ 68. Ke3 Qg3+ 69. Ke4 Qg4+ 70. Ke5 Qg3+ 71. Ke6 Qg4+ 72. Kf7 Qh5+ 73. Ke6 Qg4+ 74. Kd6 Qd4+ 75. Kc7 Qc4+ 76. Kd7 Qa4+ 77. Kd8 Qd4+ 78. Ke8 Qa4+ 79. Kf8 Qd4 80. Qe6 Qc5+ 81. Ke8 Qb5+ 82. Kd8 Qd3+ 83. Kc7 Qg3+ 84. Kd8 Qh4 85. Kc8 Qf2 86. f7 Qc2+ 87. Kd8 Qd3+ 88. Ke7 Qh7 89. Qg4 1-0



Dec 7 KAMP'S WINTER OPEN Oklahoma City OK

4-SS, G/30;d5. Kamp's 1910 Café, 10 NE 10th Street in downtown OKC. Sponsored by The Challenger's Chess Club. PRIZES: based on entries. EF: $10 (cash only— no checks!). Advance registration by email encouraged — Email your name and USCF ID to bg_ok@yahoo.com.
Check in and pay onsite from 8:30 to 9:00. Rounds: 9:30, 11:00, 1:00, 2:30. Byes: one half-point bye available for rounds 1, 2, or 3. No outside food or drinks are permitted. Bring your own board and clock. USCF memberships are required. For more information, contact Bart Gibbons at (417) 396-0788 or bg_ok@yahoo.com.

Dec 7-8 CHRISTMAS TREE OPEN Kansas City MO

5-SS, G/100+10. KCI Expo Center, 11730 N Ambassador Dr, Kansas City MO, 64153. REG: 8-9:30 12/7. EF: $62 by 12/4 via online entry at www.acerook.com/ctoregister ; $74 on-site. $$Prizes: ($2100 b/60): Open: $360 -$270 - $180 - $90; U2000 - $75, U1800 - $75; Reserve: $360 -$270 - $180 - $90; U1300 - $50, U1100 - $50, U900 - $50. Hotel: Holiday Inn Kansas City Airport – 11728 N Ambassador Dr, Kansas City MO, 64153 -- HR: $101-$108, mention Acerook Chess. More info: Brian Yang at AcerookChess@gmail.com Website: https://www.acerook.com/2019christmastree

Dec 7 JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY OPEN Joplin MO

4-SS, G/40;d5. Joplin Public Library, 1901 E 20th St., Joplin, MO 64804. Half of all Open entries go to support the library's Children's Department and Chess Club. Includes K-12 Section. EF: $20. PRIZES: 50% of entries as prizes in Open section. Advance Entries requested, by email: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org More info: Martin Stahl (417)483-1554. Website full info: http://www.joplinchess.org/event/2019-joplin-public-library-open-tournament/

Dec 28 29th Annual HOLIDAY OPEN Tulsa OK

4-SS, G/50+15 spm. (Dual rated). Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Cash Prizes $200-1st(G), plus other cash prizes per entries. ** SPECIAL PRIZE to Top Player Under 1500 -- Nice Wooden Chess Set and Board, donated by Chris Walker
Free coffee and refreshments. REG.: 9-9:45 AM. RDS.: 10-12:30-3-5:30 PM. EF: $20 cash or check at door. BYES: One 1/2-point bye Rds. 1, 2 or 3. LS W. Advance Entries and Information: Jim Berry, P O Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. JABerrycg@aol.com.

By IM John Donaldson

Seven New Books from New in Chess

Among the major chess book publishers, which includes Quality Chess, Everyman Chess and McFarland, one can safely say that New in Chess (www.newinchess.com) has the most eclectic offerings with titles on pretty much every facet of the game from opening books to middlegame instructional works to game collections and more. This diversity is present in its most recent offerings:

The Complete French by Evgeny and Vladimir Sveshnikov
(286 pages, $32.95)

My First Chess Opening Repertoire for Black by Vincent Moret
(240 pages, $21.95)

Chess for Hawks by Cyrus Lakdawala
(282 pages, $24.95)

Chess Training for Candidate Masters by Alexander Kalinin
(208 pages, $19.95)

The Complete Manual of Positional Chess: vol. 2 by Konstantin Sakaev and Konstantin Landa (368 pages, $29.95)

The New in Chess Book of Chess Improvement
compiled and edited by Steve Giddins
(350 pages, $24.95)

Gyula Breyer: The Chess Revolutionary
by Jimmy Adams
(876 pages, hardback, $49.95)

The two opening books are quite different and aimed at separate groups of players. The first, by the father and son team of Grandmaster Evgeny Sveshnikov and International Vladimir Sveshnikov, is geared towards players rated 1800-2400 and covers 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 exclusively. The material is arranged around 131 well-annotated model games. There is plenty of prose explanation and the book is spiced up by exercises to solve and the elder Sveshnikov's lively observations. This book will be of interest to not only French players and those who meet 1…e6 with the Advance Variation with, but also those who employ 2.c3 versus the Sicilian as 1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 is best answered by 4.e5.

French Trainer Vincent Moret follows up his well-received *My First Chess Opening Repertoire for White* with a book devoted to openings for Black players rated from 1200-1800. The emphasis is on openings where Black gives the game an aggressive character at an early stage. This means the Portuguese variation of the Scandinavian (1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4), the Albin (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5) and Dutch Stonewall. Why two answers to 1.d4? The author suggests meeting 1.d4 d5 2.c4 with the Albin, but other second moves by White (plus 1.c4 and 1.Nf3) with the Stonewall via 1…d5 (not 1…f5) followed by …e6, …c6 and …f5. This has some theoretical problems of its own, but far beyond the target audience for this book.

Chess for Hawks by International Master Cyrus Lakdawala is intended to build a strong spine in club players by encouraging them to play fighting chess. The author, who is noted for his instructional writing aimed at the everyman player, uses 60 well-annotated model games to present chess fundamentals to an audience rated between1400 and 2000.

Chess Training for Candidate Masters by Alexander Kalinin is aimed at a stronger audience and uses a more formal approach. Once again the material is arranged around well-annotated model games. The target audience for this book is rated 1800 to 2200.

The *Complete Manual of Positional Chess: Volume 2* by two well-known Russian Grandmasters is the follow up to the first volume in this series which was on the opening and middlegame. Like that book the present work is absolutely first rate. The material is well organized and well explained and will provide months of instruction for the diligent student. This book would also be quite useful with those working with players rated from 2000-2400.

The New in Chess Book of Chess Improvement, compiled and edited by Steve Giddins, draws on the over thirty years of publication of the outstanding magazine *New In Chess*. Loyal readers who have been around since the start of the ride in 1984, and who have all their old issues, will find they have the material except for the convenience of a careful selection of games in one volume, but for the other 99 percent of potential readers this book will be a treat. There is no question that 350 pages of well-annotated games by a variety of Grandmasters, with an emphasis on the instructive, offers excellent value at $24.95. Your reviewer agrees with Giddins observation that not only top players have improved the past thirty years; the strength of club players has also risen dramatically. This book will benefit players rated 1600-2200.

Last but not least is Jimmy Adams magnificent tribute to one of the unsung chess heroes of early 20th century, Gyula Breyer. Today, this comrade of Nimzovich in the rise of the hypermoderns in chess is remembered almost exclusively today for the opening variation which bears his name:

(1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8).

Here the move 9... Nb8 identifies the famous Breyer Variation of the main line Ruy Lopez.

This is sad because Breyer contributed so much in his short life (he died at the age of 28), and ironic in that he never played the variation which bears his name — at least no game scores have survived.

Adams explains this line was really only introduced into tournament play in the mid-1950s by Soviet players (a young Boris Spassky among them) and if not for the remembrances of the Viennese theoretician Hans Muller who recalled a long-lost article by Breyer on the line and Hungarian Grandmaster Gideon Barcza who credited his countrymen in his annotations to Ciocaltea-Barcza, Moscow (ol) 1956, the variation might have ended up being named after Furman and Borisenko.

This book has almost everything one could want in a game collection including an extensive biography, a well-annotated collection of games (many taken from contemporary commentary translated from various languages), and tributes by other players, crosstables and indices of openings, games, and names.

This is a book all those with an interest in chess history will want to have.